

1 WILLIAM J. GEDDES
Nevada Bar No. 6984
2 KRISTEN R. GEDDES
Nevada Bar No. 9027
3 THE GEDDES LAW FIRM, P.C.
1575 Delucchi Lane, Suite 206
4 Reno, Nevada 89502
Phone: (775) 853-9455
5 Fax: (775) 299-5337
Email: Will@TheGeddesLawFirm.com
6 Email: Kristen@TheGeddesLawFirm.com

7 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Eric Duarte*

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

10 ERIC DUARTE, an individual,
11
12 Plaintiff,
13
14 vs.

15 NEVADA GOLD MINES, LLC, a foreign
Limited-Liability Company; and BARRICK
16 GOLD OF NORTH AMERICA, INC, a foreign
corporation d.b.a. Nevada Gold Mines,
17
18 Defendants.

CASE NO: 3:21-cv-00070-HDM-WGC

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
Regarding
CONFIDENTIALITY OF DOCUMENTS
PRODUCED IN LITIGATION

18 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”) 26(f) and
19 U.S. District Court of Nevada Rule (“Local Rule”) 26-1(e), the parties through their respective counsel,
20 hereby submit the following *Stipulated Protective Order*.

21 **I. RECITALS**

22 WHEREAS: the parties to the above-captioned litigation anticipate that discovery will require
23 the parties to disclose records and information that are confidential and sensitive, including because
24 such records are anticipated to include the parties’ private employment records and private medical
25 records; and

26 WHEREAS: the parties seek to protect and prevent the improper dissemination of such
27 confidential and private records and information to third parties, during the course of litigation and after
28 the litigation has ended;

1 **II. STIPLUATION**

2 THEREFORE: the parties, by and through their respective counsel of record, hereby stipulate
3 and request the Court issue an Order (“*Stipulated Protective Order*”), protecting the confidential nature
4 of certain records and information as may be produced during the course of the above-captioned matter,
5 as follows:

6 1. If any person or entity, whether or not a party to the instant action, produces or receives
7 answers to interrogatories, or documents or other things, which the producing or receiving person or
8 entity considers to be “Confidential Information,” as defined in § II(3)(A)(I) *infra*; or

9 2. If there is deposition testimony which any person or entity, whether or not a party to the
10 instant action, believes contains “Confidential Information,” as defined in § II(3)(A)(I) *infra*; or

11 3. Third parties produce information which the third parties assert is confidential, the
12 following procedure shall govern pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”) 26 (c)
13 *et. seq.*:

14 A. Any documents (and the contents thereof), things or information falling within
15 the definition of “Confidential Information,” set forth in § II(3)(A)(I) *infra*, that are produced may be
16 designated and marked, in whole or in part, without regard to whether redactions are made,
17 “Confidential” by the party producing the documents or information, at the time the documents are
18 delivered to or made available for inspection by any party;

19 I. “Confidential Information” includes, but is not limited to: (a)
20 employment records of any employees or former employees of any party; (b) confidential notes,
21 memoranda, and statements regarding non-party employees; (c) confidential information concerning
22 the discipline and/or termination of non-party employees and former employees; (d) the production of
23 information or documents proprietary to any party, including by way of example and not limitation, tax
24 records, financial statements; (e) other private information of any party or non-party to the present
25 litigation, including consumer records, *e.g.*, phone bills; (f) financial records and business records of
26 any person or entity, whether a party or non-party to the present litigation; and (g) medical records,
27 including medical bills and psychological records, and medical information of any person, whether a
28 party or non-party to the present litigation.

1 B. If a party produces to another party items that contain Confidential Information
2 as defined above, that party may designate one or more documents, or a portion of a document, as
3 “Confidential” before producing that document to the other party. Such designation shall be made by
4 marking, stamping or typing the word “Confidential” on each page of the document at the time it is
5 produced to the receiving party’s counsel;

6 C. Any party may designate deposition testimony as “Confidential” by orally
7 making such a designation on the record either at the commencement of the deposition, at the time the
8 testimony is given, and/or before the end of that day's questioning. Following such a designation, the
9 court reporter shall mark “Confidential” on the transcript or the portion thereof containing the
10 “Confidential” testimony;

11 D. In addition, documents or items produced by one party may be designated
12 “Confidential” by the other party, *i.e.*, the receiving party, by:

13 I. marking the document, in whole or in part, “Confidential” in the same
14 manner as stated above; and

15 II. then forwarding a copy of the marked document back to the producing
16 party;

17 E. In this regard, the receiving party seeking the “Confidential” designation may
18 designate, by number, each document it believes should be “Confidential”;

19 F. If the receiving party has no objection to the “Confidential” designation made by
20 the producing party, the receiving party may either expressly notify the producing party or allow the ten
21 calendar-day objection period (set forth below) to lapse. Where there has been no written objection
22 made, once a document or item has been produced and designated as provided herein to the receiving
23 party, the document or item shall be treated as “Confidential,” respectively, pursuant to this *Stipulated*
24 *Protective Order*, until further order of the Court;

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 4. The following protocol shall apply in the event of an objection to a designation of
2 “Confidential”:

3 A. If there is an objection to the “Confidential” designation, the party so objecting
4 must notify the other party in writing of both the objection and the grounds for the objection within
5 fourteen calendar days from the date the designation was made or the document(s)/item(s) received,
6 whichever is later, and the procedure in § II(4)(B) *infra*, shall apply;

7 B. If the parties do not agree that the documents, information or testimony should
8 be treated as confidential, the parties shall attempt to resolve the issue by meeting and conferring. If a
9 resolution does not occur, either party may file a motion with the Court to resolve the dispute. Such
10 motion must be filed within 30 calendar days of receipt of the written objection to the designation,
11 unless stipulated otherwise by counsel. If an objection has been raised, the documents, testimony
12 and/or information at issue shall be governed by § II (3)(A)-(F), inclusive, of this *Stipulated Protective*
13 *Order*, and treated and regarded as “Confidential” from the date of disclosure and/or production until
14 the dispute is resolved informally by the parties or a final order is issued by the Court resolving the
15 dispute. In the event of such motion, the parties having entered into this *Stipulation* and the existence
16 of the Court's *Order* entered thereon shall not affect the burden of proof on any such motion, nor
17 impose any burdens upon any party that would not exist had this *Stipulated Protective Order* not been
18 entered;

19 5. A document or testimony, or portion, summary, or abstract thereof, that is to be treated
20 “Confidential” pursuant to this *Stipulated Protective Order* shall not be disclosed to any persons other
21 than the parties, counsel of record for the parties, attorneys, legal assistants and clerical personnel
22 employed by them, and other persons to whom disclosure is necessary for the purposes of this
23 litigation. (This allows disclosure to the officers, directors, employees or former employees of the
24 parties, persons requested by counsel for any party to furnish technical or expert service or to give
25 expert testimony with regard to the subject matter of the document(s), item(s) or expert testimony for
26 the trial of this action). However, each such person to whom a party makes such disclosure shall read
27 this *Stipulated Protective Order* and acknowledge in writing that he/she is fully familiar with the terms
28 hereof and agrees to comply with, and be bound by, this *Stipulated Protective Order* until modified by

1 either further order of the Court or agreement of all the affected parties;

2 6. The inadvertent unintentional disclosure by a party of Confidential information,
3 regardless of whether the information was so designated at the time of disclosure, shall not be deemed a
4 waiver in whole or in part of a party's claim of confidentiality, either as to the specific information
5 disclosed or as to any other information relating thereto or on the same or related subject matter. The
6 failure to designate any document, material, or information as Confidential in accordance with this
7 *Stipulated Protective Order* at the time it is produced or disclosed does not preclude a party from later
8 seeking to designate a document, material, or information as Confidential. If a party discovers that it
9 inadvertently produced materials containing Confidential information without marking them as such in
10 accordance with this *Stipulated Protective Order*, the party may provide written notice to the receiving
11 party that the materials should be treated as Confidential information in accordance with this *Stipulated*
12 *Protective Order*. Upon receipt of such notice, the receiving party must treat such materials as
13 Confidential information, and upon receipt of materials properly marked as Confidential, must return or
14 destroy the unmarked materials and must reasonably ensure that others to whom the unmarked
15 materials were disclosed have not retained copies. No party shall be deemed to have violated this
16 *Stipulated Protective Order* by failing to maintain the confidentiality of material during a time when
17 that material has not been designated Confidential information, even where the failure to so designate
18 was inadvertent and where the material is subsequently designated Confidential information.

19 7. In accordance with Rule 26(b)(5)(B) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, if
20 information produced in discovery is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation
21 material, the party making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim
22 and the basis for it. After being so notified, the notified party must promptly return, sequester, or
23 destroy the specified information and any copies it has; must not use or disclose the information until
24 the claim is resolved; must take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the party disclosed it
25 before being notified; and may promptly present the information to the court under seal for a
26 determination of the claim. The producing party must preserve the information until the claim is
27 resolved. The inadvertent, unintentional disclosure in this litigation by a party of its own designated
28 privileged document or information, regardless of whether the information was so designated at the

1 time of disclosure, shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a party's claim of privilege,
2 either as to the specific information disclosed or as to any other information relating thereto or on the
3 same or related subject matter. The receiving party upon receiving a privilege log identifying the
4 document remains free to challenge any claim of privilege or protection, but shall not make any claim
5 that the production of the document was a waiver of any privilege or protection. Moreover, absent a
6 ruling that the document or information at issue is not privileged or protected, a receiving party may not
7 disclose or make any use whatsoever of the information disclosed in or derived from the document or
8 information at issue.

9 8. Anyone seeking to file any "Confidential" documents, testimony, or information or any
10 pleadings or memorandum purporting to reproduce or paraphrase all or any portion of such confidential
11 material with this Court must first attempt to make such filings confidentially, by seeking to obtain
12 prior leave of Court for filing the same under seal. Notwithstanding any agreement among the parties,
13 the party seeking to file a paper under seal bears the burden of overcoming the presumption in favor of
14 public access to papers filed in Court. NOTE: If the document is filed electronically, the appropriate
15 protocol for that purpose will be utilized. Any motion regarding filing confidential information and
16 motions to seal shall comply with LR IA 10-5 and the requirements of *Kamakana v. City and County of*
17 *Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006). *See also, Center for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Group, LLC*, 809
18 F.3d 1092, 1097 (9th Cir. 2016).

19 9. If such application for leave of Court to file any document(s) under seal is denied, then
20 the party who sought leave will be relieved, in that instance only, and only as to such documents for
21 which leave of Court was denied, from complying with this stipulation in relation to that filing;

22 10. Any documents, testimony, and/or information that has been rendered "Confidential"
23 under the parties' *Stipulated Protective Order* is to be used only in the above-captioned action, and may
24 not be used in any other action or for any other purpose unless the party seeking to make such use has
25 acquired the documents, testimony, and/or information from a source independent of the above-
26 captioned action;

27 ///

28 ///

11. Within 45 calendar days of the entry of the final order concluding this judicial proceeding, all "Confidential" documents or things; any copies, summaries, and abstracts thereof; or notes relating thereto, shall be returned to the producing party or destroyed by the receiving party (including by being shredded), at the option of the receiving party, with proof or attestation of such destruction of records being transmitted by the receiving party to the producing party, except as otherwise ordered by the Court or stipulated in writing by the parties. Counsel of record shall obtain return of such information, things, and/or documents from any person to whom that counsel has made available the documents or information produced by the other party designated as "Confidential." Notwithstanding any other language contained in this *Order*, each party's counsel of record shall be allowed to retain for its files a copy of all pleadings, motions, exhibits, or other papers filed and/or lodged with the Court, and of all documents designated by both parties or any non-party as

12. "Confidential" and/or summaries or abstracts thereof (including but not limited to documents of any type prepared by a party and/or counsel that are subject to the attorney-client privilege and/or the attorney work-product doctrine). All such documents and information retained by counsel of record must be maintained in a confidential manner and used only in accordance with this *Order*.

13. This *Stipulated Protective Order* may be amended, without prior leave of the Court, by the agreement of counsel for the parties in the form of a stipulation and order that shall be filed in this case. Nothing herein shall be construed so as to prevent any party from seeking relief from this *Order* at any time; and

14. The parties reserve their rights to assert the confidentiality of documents and information produced irrespective of their production pursuant to this *Stipulated Protective Order*.

Dated: April 27, 2021.

THE GEDDES LAW FIRM, P.C.


William J. Geddes, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 6984

1575 Delucchi Lane, Suite 206

Reno, Nevada 89502

Phone: (775) 853-9455

Fax: (775) 299-5337

Email: Will@TheGeddesLawFirm.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff Eric Duarte

1 Dated: April 27, 2021.

PARSON BEHLE & LATIMER

2 *Electronic Signature Authorized*

3 /s/ Laurence B. Irwin

4 Laurence B. Irwin, Esq.

5 Nevada Bar No. 5024

6 50 W. Liberty Street, Suite 750

7 Reno, Nevada 89501

8 Phone: (775) 323-1601

9 Email: LIrwin@parsonsbehle.com

10 *Attorneys for Defendants Nevada Gold Mines,*
11 *LLC and Barrick Gold of North America, Inc.*

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 *Walter G. Cobb*

14 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

15 Dated: April 28, 2021